

CLAIMS

1. A sensor for ascorbic acid or a salt thereof, the sensor comprising sensor means for detecting ascorbic acid or a salt thereof in a liquid sample and buffer means for buffering the sample before and/or at the time that the sample contacts the sensor means, said buffer means comprising two zones, a first zone comprising filter means and means for buffering the sample to a pH in the range of from 5.5 to 8 and a second zone for receiving sample which has passed through the first zone and for buffering to a pH in the range from 1 to 5.
2. A sensor according to claim 1, wherein the buffer means comprises buffer substances impregnated into or supported on filter means.
3. A sensor according to claim 2, wherein the two zones comprise two separate filter members of the filter means, arranged so to be one above the other when the sensor is in use.
4. A sensor according to claim 2, wherein the two zones comprise zones of a substantially elongate absorbent filter strip.
5. A sensor according to any preceding claim, further comprising one or more agents for reducing the level of one or more interferents.
6. A sensor according to claim 5, wherein at least one of said one or more agents is located in at least one of the two zones.
7. A sensor according to any preceding claim, wherein the second zone further comprises a reagent for reacting with ascorbic acid or a salt thereof or the reagent is located downstream of the second zone.
8. A sensor according to any preceding claim, wherein the sensor means comprises a colorimetric sensor.
9. A sensor according to claim 8, wherein the second zone is adapted to buffer the sample to a pH in the range of from 3.5 to 5.

10. A sensor according to any of claims 1 to 7, wherein the sensor means comprises an electrochemical sensor means.

11. A sensor according to claim 10, wherein the second zone is adapted to buffer the sample to a pH in the range of from 1 to 4.5.

5 12. A sensor according to any of claims 10 or 11 when dependent on claim 4, wherein the electrode arrangement is printed on the absorbent filter strip.

13. A sensor according to any of claims 10 to 12, wherein the electrochemical sensor means is at least partly located in the second zone.

14. A method of detecting ascorbic acid or a salt thereof, which method
10 comprises contacting a sensor according to any one of claims 1 to 13 with a liquid sample such that the sample passes through said first zone prior to said second zone.